



STATE OF MARYLAND

# DMMH

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**February 17, 2009**

**Public Health & Emergency Preparedness Bulletin: # 2009:06**  
**Reporting for the week ending 02/14/09 (MMWR Week #06)**

**CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS**

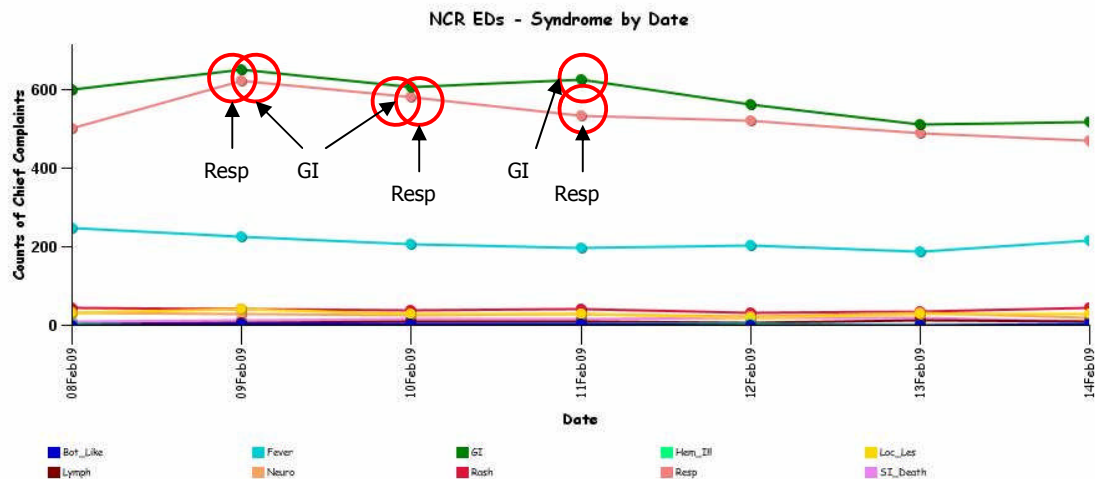
**National:** Yellow (ELEVATED) \*The threat level in the airline sector is Orange (HIGH)  
**Maryland:** Yellow (ELEVATED)

**SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE REPORTS**

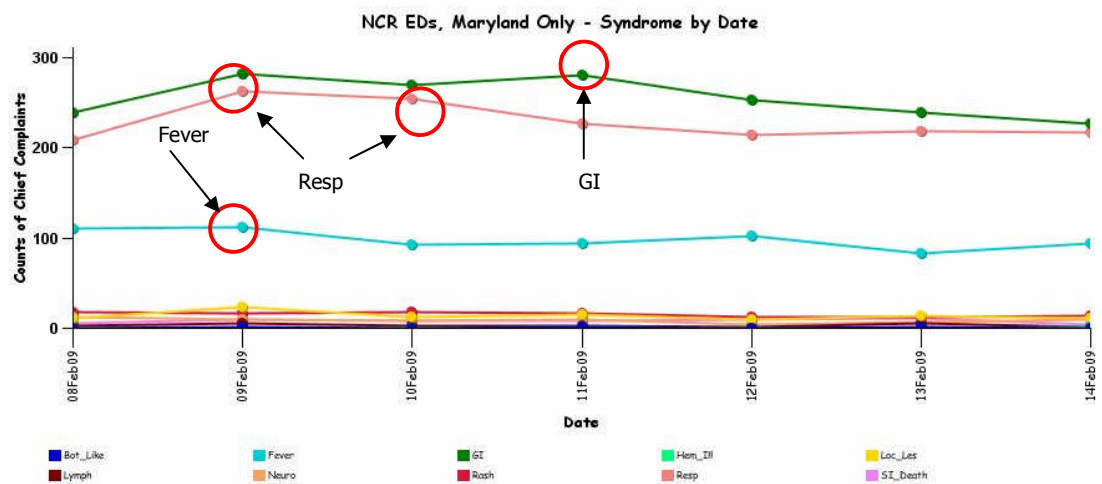
**ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics):**

Graphical representation is provided for all syndromes, excluding the "Other" category, all age groups, and red alerts are circled. Note: ESSENCE – ANCR Spring 2006 (v 1.3) now uses syndrome categories consistent with CDC definitions.

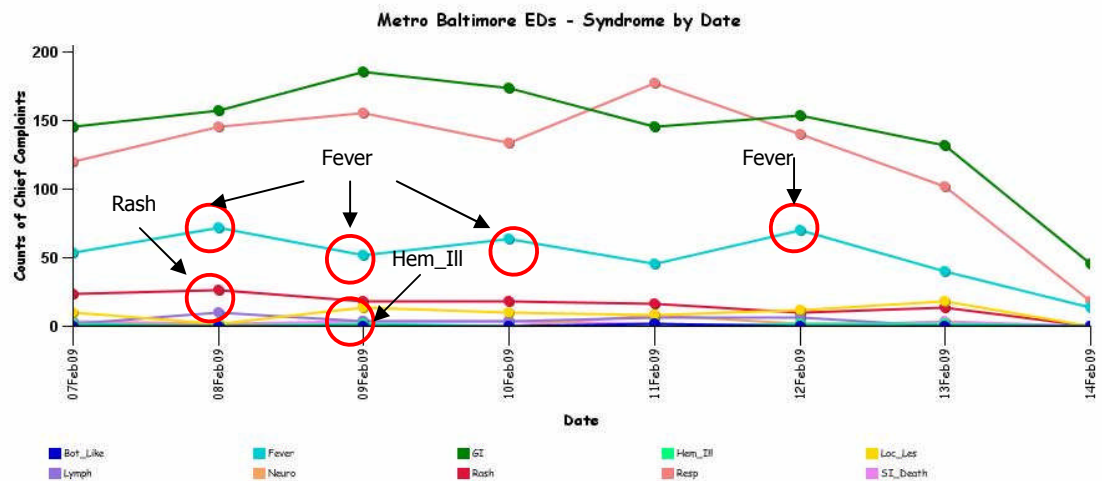
Overall, no suspicious patterns of illness were identified. Track backs to the health care facilities yielded no suspicious patterns of illness.



\* Includes EDs in all jurisdictions in the NCR (MD, VA, DC) under surveillance in the ESSENCE system.



\* Includes only Maryland EDs in the NCR (Prince George's and Montgomery Counties) under surveillance in the ESSENCE system.

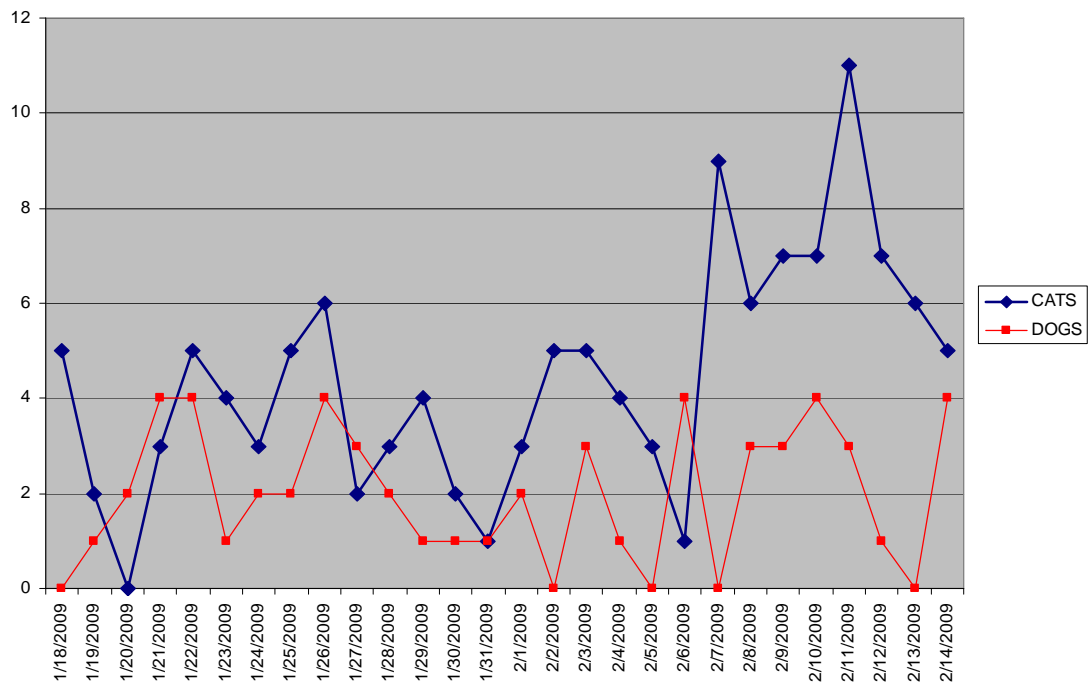


\* Includes EDs in the Metro Baltimore region (Baltimore City and Baltimore County) under surveillance in the ESSENCE system.

**\*\*NOTE: Not all data for Metro Baltimore hospitals was available for February 14 due to technical issues\*\***

**BALTIMORE CITY SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE PROJECT:** No suspicious patterns in the medic calls, ED Syndromic Surveillance and the animal carcass surveillance. Graphical representation is provided for animal carcass surveillance 311 data.

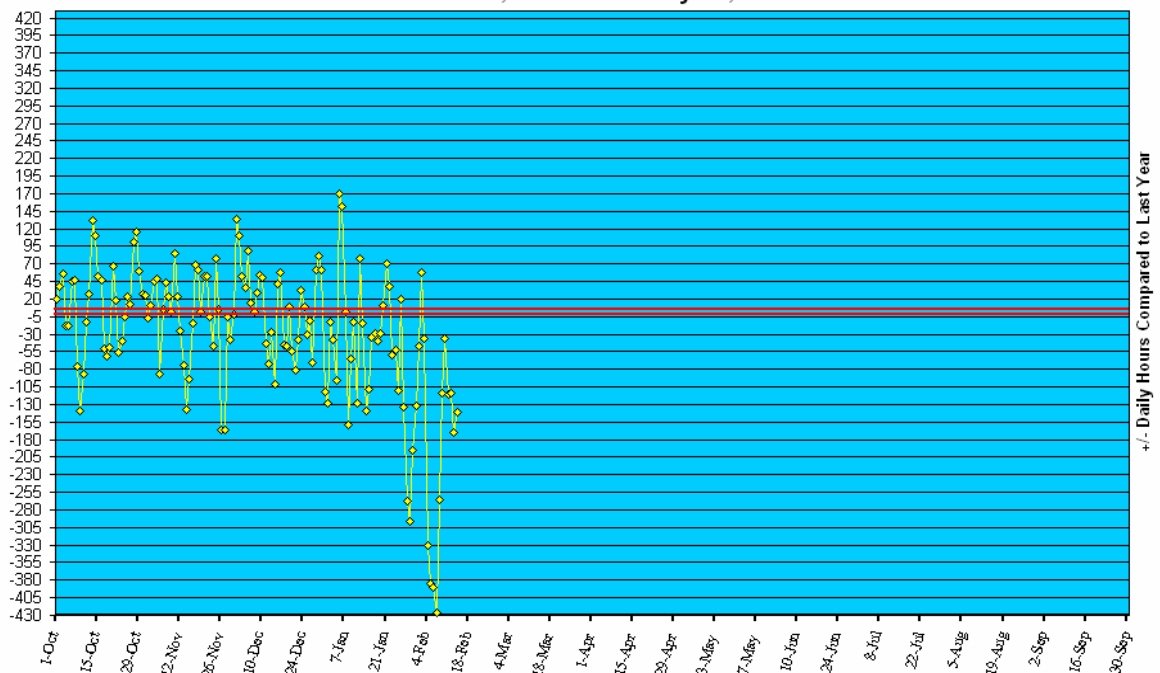
#### Dead Animal Pick-Up Calls to 311



#### REVIEW OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT UTILIZATION

**YELLOW ALERT TIMES (ED DIVERSION):** The reporting period begins 10/01/08.

#### Statewide Yellow Alert Comparison Daily Historical Deviations October 1, '08 to February 14, '09



## **REVIEW OF MORTALITY REPORTS**

**Office of the Chief Medical Examiner:** OCME reports no suspicious deaths related to BT for the week.

## **MARYLAND TOXIDROMIC SURVEILLANCE**

**Poison Control Surveillance Monthly Update:** Investigations of the outliers and alerts observed by the Maryland Poison Center and National Capital Poison Center in January 2009 did not identify any cases of possible terrorism events.

## **REVIEW OF MARYLAND DISEASE SURVEILLANCE FINDINGS**

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CASE REPORTS (confirmed, probable and suspect):**

<b>Meningitis:</b>	<b><u>Aseptic</u></b>	<b><u>Meningococcal</u></b>
New cases (Feb 08 to Feb 14, 2009):	07	1
Prior week (Feb 01 to Feb 07, 2009):	15	0
Week#6, 2008 (Feb 03 to Feb 09, 2008):	15	0

### **16 outbreaks were reported to DHMH during MMWR Week 6 (Feb.8- Feb. 14, 2009):**

#### 12 Gastroenteritis outbreaks

8 outbreaks of GASTROENTERITIS associated with Nursing Homes

2 outbreaks of GASTROENTERITIS associated with Assisted Living Facilities

1 outbreak of GASTROENTERITIS associated with a Hospital

1 outbreak of GASTROENTERITIS associated with a Meeting Facility

#### 3 Respiratory illness outbreaks

1 outbreak of RSV associated with a Daycare

1 outbreak of ILI associated with a Camp

1 outbreak of PNEUMONIA associated with a Nursing Home

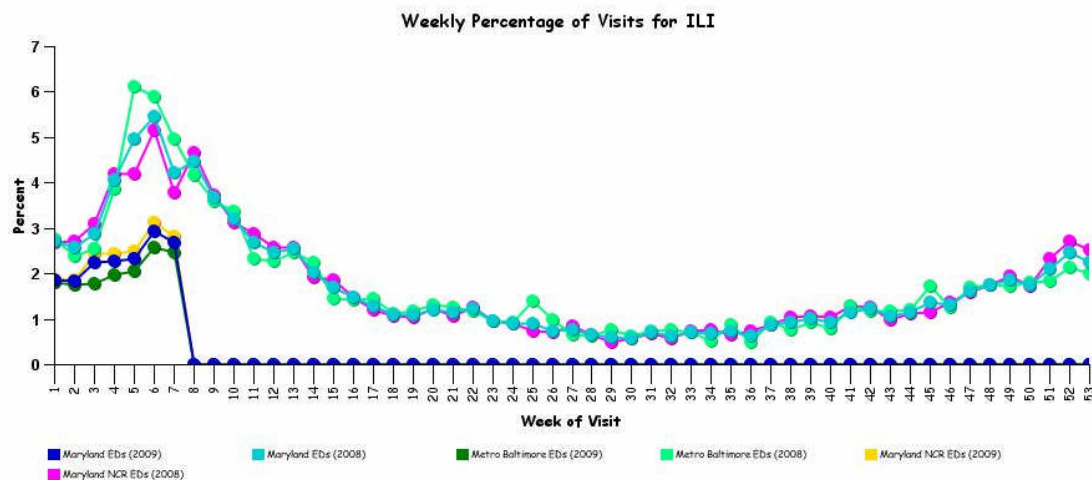
#### 1 Other outbreak

1 outbreak of HEPATITIS B

**MARYLAND SEASONAL FLU STATUS:** Influenza activity in Maryland for Week 06 is WIDESPREAD. During week 06, 156 confirmed cases of influenza were reported to DHMH.

### **SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS:**

Graph shows the percentage of total weekly Emergency Department patient chief complaints that have one or more ICD9 codes representing provider diagnoses of influenza-like illness. This graph does not represent confirmed influenza.



## **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE / AVIAN INFLUENZA-RELATED REPORTS**

**WHO Pandemic Influenza Phase:** Phase 3/4: No or very little human-to-human transmission/Small clusters with limited human-to-human transmission, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans

**US Pandemic Influenza Stage:** Stage 0/1: New domestic animal outbreak in at-risk country/Suspected human outbreak overseas

\*More information regarding WHO Pandemic Influenza Phase and US Pandemic Influenza Stage can be found at: <http://bioterrorism.dhmm.state.md.us/flu.htm>

**WHO update:** As of February 11, 2009, the WHO-confirmed global total of human cases of H5N1 avian influenza virus infection stands at 407, of which 254 have been fatal. Thus, the case fatality rate for human H5N1 is about 62%.

**AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (INDONESIA):** 12 Feb 2009. A local man suspected of having bird flu rested in his home in Jagapati village, Badung, [island of Bali] a place well known for cockfighting, while officials continued to cull fowls in the area. The 20 year old man was resting in his bedroom when The Jakarta Post visited. A field doctor, who has been treating and observing the man, said he began showing symptoms of influenza Monday [9 Feb 2009], just a few days after the report of a possible bird flu outbreak in the area. "We've given him Tamiflu "the medicine required to treat bird flu suspects" and we'll continue to observe him every 5 hours," the doctor Tresna said Tuesday [10 Feb 2009]. She said her patient seemed to be getting better but declined to rule out the possibility of bird flu, saying that she was still waiting for results of blood tests, which were sent to Jakarta on Monday [9 Feb 2009]. "We can't know for sure until we've received the results of his blood tests, which we will get in 2 weeks," she said. It is the latest resurgence of the much-dreaded avian flu in Bali since the death of a 29 year old woman, who allegedly died after being infected by the H5N1 virus on August 2007. The virus was first detected on Wednesday last week [4 Feb 2009], when a villager reported the sudden and nearly simultaneous death of 15 fowls in the area to the Badung Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Agency. The dead fowl tested positive of bird flu. The agency has since culled as many as 133 fowls in the district, with further culling to continue in the days to come until all the villages' estimated 180-fowl population has been eliminated. "We have culled 133 fowls so far, including the 40 we aim to finish off today [11 Feb 2009]. We'll continue the elimination for as long as it takes," said I Made Badra, head of the Badung Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Agency, in Jagapati on Tuesday [10 Feb 2009]. According to Badra, the resurgence of the virus was related to the wet season, which may have weakened a certain fowl's immune system enough to catch bird flu, quickly spreading to others. Another possibility, he said, was the transportation of an infected chicken from Java to Jagapati to use for cockfighting. The Bali government has banned unlicensed live animal transportation into Bali and cockfighting, but the latter remains a staple in the island due to the religious and traditional nature of the so-called sport. On the other hand, the ban on animal transportation seems to have been fully implemented since the detection of rabies virus late last year [2008]. However, Badra said there was a good chance that infected fowls escaped detection because they might have been transported before the rabies scare. "For now we'll continue to urge the public to not transport live animals into ali," he said. "We should all really learn from what happens to people who come in contact with sick animals," he said, referring to the alleged death of the 29 year old woman from bird flu and the recent alleged deaths from rabies.

**AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (VIET NAM):** 11 Feb 2009. The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam has reported a new confirmed case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The case has been confirmed at the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE). The case is a 23 year old woman from Dam Ha district, Quang Ninh province. She developed symptoms on 28 Jan 2009 and was hospitalized on 31 Jan 2009. She is currently in a serious condition and is known to have had recent contact with sick and dead poultry prior to the onset of her illness. Further investigations are currently underway. Control measures have been implemented and close contacts are being identified and monitored. Of the 108 cases confirmed to date in Viet Nam, 52 have been fatal.

**AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (EGYPT):** 10 Feb 2009. The Ministry of Health and Population of Egypt has announced a new human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection. The case is a one and a half year old boy from the Maghagha District of Menia [Al Minya] Governorate. His symptoms began on Fri 6 Feb 2009 and he was hospitalized at the Maghagha Fever Hospital on 7 Feb 2009 where he remains in a stable condition. Infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus was confirmed by the Egyptian Central Public Health Laboratory. Investigations into the source of his infection indicate a history of close contact with dead poultry prior to becoming ill. Of the 55 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 23 have been fatal.

**AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (VIET NAM):** 09 Feb 2009. A 23 year old woman is suspected of contracting the H5N1 strain of bird flu after suffering severe respiratory problems in northern Quang Ninh Province on Saturday [7 Feb 2009], health officials said. The woman of Quang Ninh Dam Ha District was admitted to the Quang Ninh General Hospital on Tuesday [3 Feb 2009] with high fever, low blood pressure, and severe respiratory problems, doctors said. But doctors reported they were unable to conclude whether she had been infected with the H5N1 virus. One test showed she carried it, but another was negative. Health experts were dispatched on Saturday [7 Feb 2009] to Quang Ninh to carry out further examinations. Work to disinfect Dam Ha District also began Saturday. Quang Ninh, where the world renowned Ha Long Bay is located, is about 150 km (93 miles) from Hanoi. Before this latest case, an 8 year old girl in the northern province of Thanh Hoa who fell sick after eating duck and chicken raised on her family's farm was diagnosed with the bird flu. She has since recovered, but her 13 year old sister died in the hospital earlier without being tested for the virus before her burial, health officials said. The Mekong Delta province of Ca Mau reported Saturday [7 Feb 2009] that bird flu has spread among 4 local communes, prompting the culling of 3250 birds to contain the epidemic. The Ca Mau

government also asked agencies concerned to take further measures against the spread of the disease in the province. The Mekong Delta province of Soc Trang began disinfection work Saturday [7 Feb 2009] after 700 birds were recently reported to have died of the flu. The avian flu has thus far infected poultry in 4 provinces in the country: Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, and Soc Trang in the Mekong Delta region and Nghe An in the north. H5N1 remains largely confined to birds, but experts fear it could mutate into a form that is easily transmitted by humans and spark a pandemic that could kill millions worldwide. Since 2003, Viet Nam has recorded 52 human deaths from bird flu, the 2nd highest toll after Indonesia, where the virus has killed 115 people.

#### **NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS:**

**SALMONELLOSIS, SEROTYPE TYPHIMURIUM, PEANUT BUTTER (USA):** 09 Feb 2009. As of 9PM EDT, Sun 8 Feb 2009, 600 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 44 states. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Alabama (2), Arizona (13), Arkansas (6), California (74), Colorado (15), Connecticut (10), Florida (1), Georgia (6), Hawaii (4), Idaho (15), Illinois (6), Indiana (9), Iowa (3), Kansas (2), Kentucky (3), Maine (4), Maryland (8), Massachusetts (48), Michigan (35), Minnesota (39), Missouri (12), Mississippi (7), Nebraska (1), New Hampshire (12), New Jersey (23), New York (22), Nevada (6), North Carolina (6), North Dakota (13), Ohio (80), Oklahoma (3), Oregon (12), Pennsylvania (17), Rhode Island (4), South Dakota (4), Tennessee (12), Texas (7), Utah (5), Vermont (4), Virginia (21), Washington (18), West Virginia (2), Wisconsin (4), and Wyoming (2). In addition, 1 ill person was reported from Canada. Among the persons with confirmed, reported dates available, illnesses began between 1 Sep 2008 and 23 Jan 2009. Patients range in age from less than 1 to 98 years. The median age of patients is 16 years, which means that half of ill persons are younger than 16 years. 21 per cent are aged less than 5 years, 15 per cent are less than 59 years. 48 per cent of patients are female. Among persons with available information, 23 per cent reported being hospitalized. Infection may have contributed to 8 deaths: Idaho (1), Minnesota (3), North Carolina (1), Ohio (1), and Virginia (2). There have already been more than 800 peanut products recalled. FDA's list of recalled products: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>. (Food Safety Threats are listed in Category B on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents) \*Non-suspect case

#### **INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS:**

**UNDIAGNOSED DISEASE, PORCINE (PHILIPPINES):** 11 Feb 2009. The number of pigs in Eastern Visayas that contracted diseases since last January [2009] rose to nearly 1000 with about 250 deaths, after 178 new cases of infected hogs were reported during a meeting [in Tacloban City] on Monday [9 Feb 2009]. Leo Caneda, regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture (DA), earlier disclosed that in late January [2009], nearly 700 pigs from the villages of Sta Rita, Samar, 60 from Daram, also in Samar, and 25 from 3 villages of Babatngon, Leyte were suspected of being infected with salmonella. Dr Andrew Orais, DA-Region 8 livestock coordinator, said his office has received reports of the additional cases through phone calls and text messages of hog disease occurrences in several other towns in Leyte, but most of these are yet to be verified. "We do not know yet if these diseases were caused by salmonella, PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome), or hog cholera classical swine fever," he said during the meeting, adding that there has been no definite result yet from the laboratory. Dr Jose Luis Acompanado, provincial veterinarian of Northern Samar, said 137 cases of disease occurrence on pigs with 77 deaths due to suspected bacterial infection were reported in 3 barangays (villages) of Lope de Vega town in Northern Samar early February [2009]. Acompanado said they conducted an animal health mission and information drive in barangays Getigo, Poblacion, and Hibunawan on 5 Feb 2009 while the local government of Lope de Vega had set up checkpoints to prevent the spread of the disease. (Emerging Infectious Diseases are listed in Category C on the CDC list of Critical Biological Agents)\* Non-suspect case

#### **OTHER RESOURCES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

More information concerning Public Health and Emergency Preparedness can be found at the Office of Preparedness and Response website: <http://bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/>

Maryland's Resident Influenza Tracking System: [www.tinyurl.com/flu-enroll](http://www.tinyurl.com/flu-enroll)

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**NOTE:** This weekly review is a compilation of data from various surveillance systems, interpreted with a focus on a potential BT event. It is not meant to be inclusive of all epidemiology data available, nor is it meant to imply that every activity reported is a definitive BT event. International reports of outbreaks due to organisms on the CDC Critical Biological Agent list will also be reported. While not "secure", please handle this information in a professional manner. Please feel free to distribute within your organization, as you feel appropriate, to other professional staff involved in emergency preparedness and infection control.

For questions about the content of this review or if you have received this and do not wish to receive these weekly notices, please e-mail me. If you have information that is pertinent to this notification process, please send it to me to be included in the routine report.

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